104-10180-10066

Jose NEATY Planco

Student Youth, was a well known Juran student leader, the wis later to become the first president of the FEU after Jastro came to power.

As a student leader in 1953 PUENTE was elected president of the Hava University Student Union. At that time he and his brother, doberto got into trouble with Batista, so in 1955, when Batista closed the university, PUENTE continued to conspire against Batista and eventually had to escape to Venesuela in order to save his neck. He subsequently came to the U.S. In 58 he left the US and found his way into the Escambray mountains where he joined anti-Batista forces, not necessarily Castro forces, for there were rany R anti-Batista groups in the mountain at that time. He did, however, join Castro forces as the campaign

After the successful revolt, FUNTE manner returned to Hava University to continue his law studies. He was elected the FMI president in a close election against students backed by Castro.

After graduation MENTE worked with INIT, a Cuban Tourist Commission, but in late 1959 he became convinced that the Castro movement was "not for him" and seen began to conspire against Castro.

Th early 1960 FTENTE went underpround and reportedly stayed subrosa until the Bay of Figs invasion at which time he came out to assist in the unrising. However, in the ensuing assist roundup of opposition proups, Jose and his brother, Roberto, were caught and imprisoned. According to FTENT, he tried to escape twice and was caught both times.

After meanly mine menths in prison, Jose and his brother, amberts were released by Jastro as the result of direct intervention by Treira him, Reputy to the Canumnian hadional assembly and extraordinarily pro-Jastro, who was approached by thente's rother in Firma who as ealed to him, to try together a natire of March 1903, Section boys were released and recordinarily measured to with ATC to Canama.

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Comments:

One could probably and perhaps properly INFER that Jose is a Castro agent, but aside from the episode dealing with his release, at the behest of Thelma King, and the report that he carried with him, after his release from prison, 150 scholarships, which appears to have some significance, there is no conclusive evidence pointing toward Jose's involvement, in past or present, with Castro's security apparat.

There is, however, considerably more evidence that he is not an agent of Castroi For example:

- 1. He has fought against Castro and was imprisoned by him.
- 2. The has reportedly denounced Thelma King openly.
 - 3. East he does not get along with his brother Jorge, who is tied in with Piniero.
- h. He has broadcasted anti-Castro and anti-Batista propaganda from Radio CIENMIL, a panamanian station.
- 5. Same he is anti-Castro, Anti-Communist and prodemocratic and that his actions, according to Jose, since 1953 should speak for themselves, including his actions and propaganda work against Castro since his arrival in the United States.

I don't believe I'm that naive to think that Jose's actions to date could not be part of a pre-arranged plan, but the evidence available points in the other direction.

I do suffest two possible alternatives, the first of which I prefer:

- 1. Apprise Ray of this information and let him determine Puente's bona fides; caution him to be discreet with his future plans and avoid telling PUTVIE
 - 2. Let us determine PCTNTE's boan fides by re-tracing, including Sureau checks and ANN/T files. Determine his relationship with Jorge in Suca and attempt to ascertain whether he is and plausible corresponding with mim. If desired we could man begin a rail intercept. In line with your thoughts re not being an intell unit for RN, I presentable suggest the former proposal.